REMARKS

A Request for Continued Examination accompanies this Amendment for the purpose of removing the finality of the pending Office Action.

Claims 1 through 45 are in the application, with Claims 1, 5, 17 and 37 having been amended. Claims 1, 5, 17, 28 and 37 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1 and 28 are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,687,707 ("Shorter").

At the outset, applicant observes that the present invention and the Shorter reference are concerned with completely different problems and operate in ways that are completely different from each other. The present invention is concerned with detecting flaws in a computer program by analyzing the program prior to runtime. By contrast, the Shorter reference is concerned with generating a unique identifier for an object to be added to a data processing system (see Abstract of Shorter). The Shorter reference, in fact, has virtually nothing to do with the subject matter recited in claim 1, and it is believed that this is clearly reflected in the language of claim 1, at least as that claim has now been clarifyingly amended.

As now amended, claim 1 is directed to a "method in a computer system for determining resolution of attributes of a program". The method of claim 1 includes "analyzing said program prior to runtime", and the analyzing step includes "providing a program having interactions", where "each interaction ha[s] commands with attributes". The analyzing step further includes "identifying a sequence of interactions of the program". Still further, the following are performed for each input attribute of each command of each interaction of the identified sequence of interactions: "identifying an output attribute corresponding to the input attribute", "indicating that the input attribute is resolved if the identified output attribute has been indicated as resolved", and "indicating that the input attribute is not resolved if the identified output attribute has not been indicated as resolved".

Finally, for each output attribute of each command of each interaction of the identified sequence of interactions, it is indicated that the output attribute is resolved.

Support for the now explicitly recited claim limitation of analyzing the computer program prior to runtime is found at page 3, lines 21-23 of the specification.

With the recited method it is possible to detect flaws in the computer program prior to attempting to execute the computer program. Again, nothing of the sort is attempted or disclosed in the Shorter reference. More specifically, Shorter does not in any way disclose the claim limitation of analyzing a program prior to runtime.

Applicant notes that the Examiner has asserted[1], at the top of page 6 of the pending Office Action, that "Shorter discloses examining a program prior to execution". Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion on the ground that the reference simply does not support the Examiner's position.

In making this assertion, the Examiner particularly relied on a passage in Shorter at column 11, lines 5-20, which includes a statement to the effect that the system administrator "will have previously inserted in to the administration file information indicating that the local object resolution services ... should propagate the request to other object resolution services". Applicant believes that this passage would accurately be characterized as disclosing the system administrator configuring the computer system to properly perform searches. Although this would be done prior to runtime, the passage does not otherwise support the Examiner's reliance thereon. Most significantly, this passage does not in any way disclose <u>analyzing a computer program</u>. The passage merely recites inserting information into a file. <u>This has nothing to do with analyzing a program</u>. Certainly the passage does not begin to disclose analyzing a program by taking the other steps recited in claim 1.

The other passage of Shorter cited by the Examiner in this regard, namely column 8, line 47 to column 9, line 15, also has nothing to do with analyzing a program. Furthermore, the activities described in this passage occur at runtime, not before.

It is accordingly submitted that claim 1, at least as now presented, is clearly allowable over the Shorter reference.

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[1] With respect to claim 5.

The above remarks are for the most part also applicable to claim 28. The Examiner asserts at the bottom of page 6 of the present Office Action that "Shorter also discloses processing each function of a computer program prior to runtime", again citing the same passage at column 11, lines 5-20. While the activity described at this passage occurs prior to runtime, it does not constitute "processing each function of a computer program". Rather, information is simply inserted into a file. Again, the passage does not support the Examiner's reliance thereon, and the rejection of claim 28 should therefore be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

The other independent claims, which are claims 5, 17 and 37 stand rejected on the basis of an asserted combination of the Balakrishnan and Shorter references. However, Balakrishnan does not disclose (nor is it relied upon by the Examiner as disclosing), "verifying resolution of input parameters of functions of a computer program before executing the computer program" (claims 5 and 17), nor "determining prior to runtime resolution of parameters of functions of a computer program" (claim 37). From the above discussion of claims 1 and 28, it will be understood that applicant strongly contends that Shorter is also deficient with regard to these limitations. Thus claims 5, 17 and 37 are believed allowable for their recitation of functions performed prior to runtime or before program execution, which functions (at least if performed prior to runtime/program execution) are not disclosed in the prior art of record.

In general the other claims, being dependent, are submitted as allowable on the same basis as their parent independent claims. However, there should be further discussion of claims 3 and 4, which are dependent on claim 1.
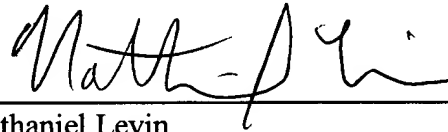
With respect to claim 3, the current Office Action merely refers to the rejection stated in the previous action, even though the applicant had timely challenged (at page 13, third paragraph of the Amendment filed herein on August 31, 2004) the Examiner's taking of Official Notice of "suppressing the reporting of input attribute". Thus, the rejection of claim 3 (which should also be withdrawn for the reasons given in regard to claim 1) now stands without support in the prior art in regard to the additional limitations recited in claim 3.

With regard to claim 4 (also dependent on claim 1), it is noted that the current Office Action did not respond to applicant's previous argument that the known use of primitive type attributes did not render obvious suppression of reporting of input attributes of primitive types.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-3460.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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